

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

The allowability of claims 14, 15, 19 and 21-27 is noted with appreciation.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 10, 12-13 and 15-27 remain in the application. Claims 10, 13, 15, 16, 19 and 21-23 have been amended. Claims 11, 14 and 28 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 10 has been amended to generally incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 14 and intermediate claim 11. Allowable claims 19 and 21 have been amended to stand as independent claims incorporating the subject matter of the base claim 10. Other claim amendments address formalities in a non-narrowing fashion.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested because it raises no new issues and places the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claims 22 and 28 have been objected for being informalities. The comments in the Official Action have been considered, and the claim set has been amended or canceled to be free from informalities.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 13, 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The comments in the Official Action have been considered and the claims have accordingly been amended to be clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 10-13, 16-18, 20 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McELROY et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,228,729). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to generally incorporate the subject matter of the allowable claim 14 and the intermediate claim 11. Independent claim 10 is thus now instantly patentable over McELROY et al. Claims depending upon claim 10 are patentable for at least this reason.

This rejection is believed to be overcome, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Upon entry this amendment, the objections and rejections are believed to be overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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